

**STATE OF ILLINOIS
HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION**

Meeting of the Commission
March 26, 2014
10:00 a.m.

James R. Thompson Center
Murdock Room - IDHS
Suite 5-300
100 West Randolph Street
Chicago, IL 60601

and

Lincoln Land Training Center
130 W. Mason Street
Room 104
Springfield, Illinois

MINUTES

PRESENT:

Commissioners

In Chicago

Robert A. Cantone
David Chang
Brad Cole
Terry Cosgrove
Merri Dee
Nabi Fakroddin
Lauren Beth Gash
Rozanne Ronen
David J. Walsh
Diane M. Viverito

In Springfield

Marti Baricevic

Absent

Chairman Martin R. Castro
Patricia Bakalis Yadgir

Staff

LaNade Bridges
Mike Evans
Donyelle L. Gray
Evelio Mora
Christine M. Welninski
Byron Wardlaw

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Members of Public: None

NOTICE:

Public and closed meetings of the Illinois Human Rights Commission are audio recorded.

I. Call to Order

On March 26, 2014 at 10:05 a.m., Vice Chairman Ronen called to order a meeting of the Illinois Human Rights Commission.

Pursuant to the Illinois Open Meetings Act, 5 ILCS 120/1 et seq., it was determined that:

- 1) A quorum of the public body was present at the meeting.
- 2) Prior to the meeting, Chairman Castro and Commissioner Yadgir gave prior notice to the General Counsel and Secretary of the Public Body, Donyelle Gray, that they would be unable to attend the meeting.

II. Consideration of Minutes

February 14, 2014

The Commission voted to approve the minutes of the February 14, 2014, as submitted by staff. Motion to approve the minutes of February 14, 2014 made by Commissioner Cantone and seconded by Commissioner Gash. Motion carried 11-0.

III. Staff Reports

A. *N. Keith Chambers, Executive Director*

Mr. Chambers was in Springfield on Commission-related official business. Therefore, Mr. Chambers submitted his written report to the body prior to the meeting.

B. *Dr. Ewa I. Ewa, Chief Fiscal Officer*

Dr. Ewa was in Springfield on Commission-related official business. Therefore, Dr. Ewa submitted his written report prior to the meeting.

C. *Michael J. Evans, Chief Administrative Law Judge*

Chief Administrative Law Judge Evans gave the report for the Administrative Law Section for the month of February 2014. Judge Evans further reported that the number of new complaint filings remains low. Judge Evans announced that one of the Commission's long-serving administrative assistants and clerk to the Administrative Law Judges, Elizabeth Rios, would be retiring this month.

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D. Donyelle Gray, General Counsel

Ms. Gray gave general reminders to the Commission regarding Statements of Economic Interest Statements and Annual Ethics Training for State Appointees.

Ms. Gray announced that two Coles Fellows have been selected for summer 2014. Their respective resumes were attached to the General Council's report.

Ms. Gray announced that Assistant General Counsel Wardlaw would be sitting on a panel assembled by CARPLS, with the subject being how volunteering can help advance an attorney's legal career. Attorney Wardlaw would provide information about the Commission at the panel.

Ms. Gray announced that since the Chairman was unable to be present for this meeting, he requested that Commissioner Travel Reimbursement Policy agenda item be tabled until the next meeting. By consensus, the Commissioners agreed to table the item to April.

Ms. Gray distributed "Muslim Cultural Sensitivity Guide" developed by the Office of the Governor's Muslim American Advisory Council. The Commissioners expressed that it was an excellent resource and they were pleased that it was being distributed.

IV. New Business

A. Commissioner Travel Reimbursement Policy

This matter is tabled until the April 30, 2014 meeting.

B. Outreach Committee Update

Commissioner Gash, who is Chair of the Outreach Committee, provided an outreach committee update to the Commission. Commissioner Gash reported that Director Chambers has created a proposed protocol for formal outreach events.

The proposed formal protocol may entail the following: **1)** When a Commissioner receives a request for an outreach event, the Commissioner should contact the HRC and speak to LaNade Bridges, the Executive Director's private secretary; **2)** Ms. Bridges will calendar the event and the Executive Director will assign HRC staff to the event; **3)** A confirmation letter will be sent by the Executive Director confirming the outreach event; **4)** Ms. Bridges should be contacted for any changes or corrections; **5)** The outreach committee is encourages to take a proactive approach.

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Commissioner Gash further suggested that the protocol should not prevent the Commission from also performing informal outreach and that the Commissioners and staff should keep a list of all informal outreach performed.

Commissioner Dee announced that she recently received an invitation to be a speaker on a panel regarding real estate transactions and the LGBT community. The event will take place at the Center on Halsted on April 26, 2014. Discussion ensued regarding whether or not the subject matter of the panel was within the scope of the Commission's expertise, i.e., civil rights. At the Commissioners' request, Ms. Gray said she would contact the organizer to gain a better understanding of the scope of the program and advise the Commissioners.

Commissioner decided to hold an outreach committee meeting before the start of the April *en banc* meeting at 9:00 a.m. Copies of the proposed protocol would be distributed prior to the outreach committee meeting.

V. Certified Question

- A.** *Ioannis Angelopoulos v. Consul General of Greece in Chicago*
Charge No.: 2009CN1465 ALS No.: 10-0719

The question presented by one of the Commission's ALJs was whether or not the Commission could assert personal jurisdiction over the Consul General of Greece in Chicago, the named respondent. The Commission concluded that because the Consul General was in fact a foreign body/nation, the Commission had no jurisdiction over the Consul General. Motion made by Vice Chairman Ronen and seconded by Commissioner Cosgrove. Motion carried 11-0.

VI. Public Comment

There were no public comments.

VII. Executive Session

None

VIII. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 10:47 a.m. Motion made by Commissioner Nabi, seconded by Commissioner Cantone. Motion carried 11-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Donyelle L. Gray
General Counsel